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RHODE ISLAND PBS PREMIERES POPULAR *THEATER TALK* SERIES

Acclaimed Talk Show to Begin Friday, Feb. 1, 2008 at 10:30 PM

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (January 30, 2008) **THEATER TALK** – dubbed by Playbill Online as the most prestigious show about theater on New York television – will debut on WSBE Rhode Island PBS on Friday, February 1, 2008 at 10:30 p.m.

Rhode Island PBS will carry the acclaimed series on Fridays at 10:30 p.m., Sundays at 2:30 a.m., and Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. in February. The first five episode descriptions and the air dates (including schedule variations in March) are listed below.

A New York City staple – with over 400 programs since its debut in 1992 – **THEATER TALK** is co-hosted by Michael Riedel, the influential Broadway columnist for the *New York Post*, and producer Susan Haskins. The series is a unique forum for theater artists, featuring conversations with the actors, directors, playwrights and others whose work is “on the boards” in New York each season. Video excerpts from productions highlight in-depth interviews with outspoken personalities about their work and shows. **THEATER TALK** also features authors and historians discussing theater legends and classic works of the stage, as well as New York’s top critics and reporters on the latest shows and trends.

“We conceived **THEATER TALK** as a sort of *Meet the Press* of Broadway,” said Riedel. “We want viewers to feel that they are sitting around with theater insiders at a Broadway hangout, talking, gossiping, and joking about the theater.”

THEATER TALK comes to Rhode Island PBS

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THEATER TALK Episodes (please note episode numbers and schedule variations)

#101 Actors Ian McShane and Raul Esparza on their roles in Harold Pinter's classic play, "**The Homecoming**"

Friday 2/1 at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday 2/3 at 2:30 a.m.

Tuesday 2/5 2:30 p.m.

#102 Actor Chazz Palminteri on his one-man show, "**A Bronx Tale.**"

Friday 2/8 at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday 2/10 at 2:30 a.m.

Tuesday 2/12 at 2:30 p.m.

#105 Irish actors Ciaran Hinds and Conleth Hill on the celebrated Broadway play, "**The Seafarer**"; plus a visit to the first rehearsal of David Mamet's new comedy, "**November**" with Mamet, Nathan Lane, and Laurie Metcalf.

Friday 2/15 at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday 2/17 at 2:30 a.m.

Tuesday 2/19 at 2:30 p.m.

#104 Writer Tom Stoppard on his new play, "**Rock 'n' Roll.**"

Tuesday 3/18 at 2:30 p.m.

Friday 3/21 at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday 3/23 at 2:30 a.m.

#103 Elaine Stritch, critic John Simon and author Barry Day on theatrical legend **Noel Coward.**

Tuesday 3/25 at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday 3/26 at 10:30 p.m.

In April, Rhode Island PBS will air **THEATER TALK** on Fridays at 10:30 p.m.

THEATER TALK is jointly produced by the not-profit Theater Talk Productions and City University of New York Television (CUNY TV). The series is funded by contributions from private foundations and individuals, as well as The New York State Council on the Arts and The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The series' guests in 2007 included Tony Award-winning actors Frank Langella ("Frost/Nixon") and David Hyde Pierce ("Curtains"), as well as Brian Dennehy, Angela Lansbury, Bill Nighy, Vanessa Redgrave, Liev Schreiber, and Tony Shalhoub; and playwrights Edward Albee ("Peter and Jerry"), Douglas Carter Beane ("The Little Dog Laughed"), Charles Busch ("Die Mommie Die"), David Hare ("Stuff Happens"), Conor McPherson ("The Seafarer"), Peter Morgan ("Frost/Nixon," screenplay of "The Queen"), and Theresa Rebeck ("Mauritius").

Now celebrating its 40th anniversary year, WSBE Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. Dedicated to lifelong learning, Rhode Island PBS uses the power of commercial-free media to educate, engage, enrich, inspire, and entertain viewers of all ages in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and eastern Connecticut. For more information about the programs and services at Rhode Island PBS, visit www.RIpbs.org.

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